

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1949

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Urban District Council of Cheshunt

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1949/50 :—

Councillor F. C. BISHOP (*Chairman*)

Councillor R. R. ARCHER, J.P.

Councillor D. E. BREEZE.

Councillor Miss B. A. FITZSIMONS.

Councillor R. FINCHAM.

Councillor M. W. HAYTER.

Councillor E. A. JENNINGS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—Staff

Medical Officer of Public Health (Part time) :

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.Ch.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part time) :

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—Inspector under the Petroleum Acts :

C. WILSON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.4.)

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

W. G. DAVIES, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3.4.)

General :

MISS T. PAVELY, *Clerk/Typist*.

MR. E. J. DAY (H.M.F. 9/6/49)

MISS R. THURGOOD (Appointed 2/8/49 ; resigned 30/9/49)

MISS P. WARNER *Clerk* (Appointed 17/10/49)

MR. W. G. BRETT, *Disinfector and Mortuary Attendant*.

MR. T. P. CRESSWELL, *Rodent Operative* (16/5/49)

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1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
 2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
 3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
 4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Cheshunt

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my fourth annual report, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

Generally, the health of the district during the year 1949 was satisfactory. The birth rate, although lower than the previous year, was still above the general rate throughout the country. The death rate remained comparatively low, but there was a sharp rise in the infant mortality rate.

Once again it is pleasing to note that there were no cases of diphtheria. There was, however, an epidemic of measles. (450 cases).

Three cases of Dysentery were notified during the year, the patients being two adults and one child. As far as can be traced the cases were sporadic and had no relation to each other.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in different parts of the district. Evidence of indirect contact was established between one of the patients and a previous case in an adjoining district. Both cases were admitted to hospital and supervision of contacts was carefully maintained.

In November the Council made a formal application for the Mass Radiography Unit of the North East Metropolitan Region to visit this district and to be available to members of the general public, but it was not possible to arrange for this until May, 1950.

I wish to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation throughout the year and to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

C. R. HILLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I.

STATISTICS

Area : The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

Population : Registrar-General's estimate—

1938	16,940	1942	18,610	1946	20,230
1939	18,239	1943	18,590	1947	21,080
1940	18,190	1944	18,700	1948	21,210
1941	18,310	1945	18,700	1949	21,490
				1948	1949
				5700	5943
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books				5700	5943
Rateable Value				£131,616	£131,713
Sum represented by penny rate				£526	£520

Vital Statistics :

		BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		
		England & Cheshunt.	Wales.	Number.	Rate.	England & Wales.
1938	...	18.36	15.1	172	10.15	11.6
1939	...	17.14	15.0	179	9.75	12.1
1940	...	15.72	14.6	221	12.63	14.3
1941	...	16.43	14.2	230	12.56	12.9
1942	...	18.0	15.8	194	10.42	11.6
1943	...	20.44	16.5	204	10.97	12.1
1944	...	19.95	17.6	209	11.18	11.6
1945	...	17.8	16.1	202	10.8	11.4
1946	...	21.55	19.1	188	9.29	11.5
1947	...	23.43	20.5	226	10.7	12.0
1948	...	19.71	17.9	209	9.85	10.8
1949	...	17.73	16.7	213	9.91	11.7
					1948	1949
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)					7.12	23.08
Deaths from puerperal causes :—						
Deaths from puerperal and post-abortive sepsis					nil	nil
Deaths from other maternal causes					2	nil
Death rate per 1000 total births (live and still) ...					4.75	nil

Death rates of infants under 1 year of age :—

ALL INFANTS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS :—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Cheshunt ...	38.59	48.70	34.84	36.54	35.82	34.21
England and Wales	53	50	55	59	49	49
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cheshunt ...	35.00	36.03	34.72	22.27	14.35	44.62
England and Wales	46	46	43	41	34	32
					1948	1949
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					14.63	43.01
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					nil	111.11

Birth-Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1949.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adm. County	Cheshunt
Rates per 1,000 civilian population :—					
Births :—					
Live Births ...	16.7	18.7	18.0	18.5	17.73
Still Births ...	0.39	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.42
Deaths :—					
All causes ...	11.7	12.5	11.6	12.2	9.91
Typhoid and Para- typhoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	—
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis ...	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.47
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
Pneumonia ...	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.42
Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—					
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	32	37	30	29	44.62
Deaths from Diarr- hoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	—
Rates per 1,000 civilian population :—					
Notifications :—					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	0.7
Whooping Cough ...	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	2.23
Diphtheria ...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	—
Erysipelas ...	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.14
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ..	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	20.94
Pneumonia ..	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	0.93
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	0.09
Acute Polio-encepha- litis ...	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Food Poisoning ...	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.09
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—					
Notifications :—					
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ...	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	2.56

Causes of Death.

	Male	Female
All Causes	111	102
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	7	3
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
Cancer	14	16
Diabetes	2	1
Heart Disease	25	31
Other circulatory diseases ...	6	7
Bronchitis	12	2
Pneumonia	5	4
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach	3	1
Appendicitis	—	1
Other digestive diseases ...	1	3
Acute and chronic nephritis ...	5	2
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	9	5
Inter-cranial vascular lesions ...	9	16
Road Traffic Accidents ...	5	0
Other violent causes	1	1
All other causes	5	9

SECTION 2.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Regional Hospital Board Services.

Physiotherapy Clinic	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., daily except Saturday and Sunday.
Chest Clinic	Formerly held at Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Transferred to Waltham Abbey Isolation Hospital, 7th November, 1949. (Mondays, 2.30 p.m.)
Ophthalmic Clinic	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. Friday.

County Council Health Services.

Ambulance	Fire Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1949 :— 2 shift leaders 6 men 2 ambulances (one replaced early in 1950 by new Daimler ambulance.) 1 sitting-ease ear.
Day Nursery	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross. 40 places for children 0 to 5 years. Waiting List on 31st December, 1949—16.
Home Help Service	Organizer : Mrs. M. C. Ellis, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Hours : Monday to Friday, 10 to 11 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 31st December, 1949 :— whole-time, 8 half-time, 5 casual (i.e. employed on hourly basis) 24 Cases assisted during 1949. 189.
Welfare Centres	Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt. Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month. Nockold Hall, Goffs Lane, Goffs Oak. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month 2.30 to 4 p.m.

Rear of Greenfield House, High Street, Waltham Cross:—

Minor Ailments Clinic—Monday to Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. Doctor attends 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month.

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.

Speech Therapy Clinic—Fridays, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic :

Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Midwives only.

Wednesdays do. Doctor attends.

Infant Welfare Centre—Wednesday, 1.45 to 4 p.m.

**Health Visitors
and School
Nurses**

Miss Churchill, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross.

Miss Hilton, 22 West Side, Turnford.

**District
Nurses and
Midwives**

Miss Hitchon { Greenfield Cottage, 178 High
Miss Skidmore { Street, Waltham Cross.
(Waltham Cross 3127)

Miss Smith, 24 Cromwell Avenue, Cheshunt.
(Waltham Cross 3580)

Miss Gilbert, The Lodge, Goffs Oak Villa, Goffs Oak (Cuffley 2420)

Mrs. E. Wright, Park Cottage, Flamstead End.
(Waltham Cross 3410)

Mrs. Craig (part-time—no midwifery) 19 Hill View Gardens, Cheshunt.

OTHER SERVICES.

Blood Transfusion.

The Cheshunt Recruitment Committee of the National Blood Transfusion Service was formed in 1947. The Committee now have an arrangement under which a Mobile Team visits the Health Centre Waltham Cross every six weeks for Thursday afternoon sessions from 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. with occasional Sunday double sessions. The number of donations made during 1949 was 476.

There is still an urgent need for new donors. Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss Munns, The Secretary of the Recruitment Committee, at "Speedwell," Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No. Waltham Cross 3026.

Laboratory Facilities.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital, and specimens and patients may be referred to the laboratories.

Scabies.

Treatment for Scabies is carried out at the centre belonging to the Hoddesdon Council situated at the rear of the Council Offices, Hoddesdon, by arrangement with that authority. Six cases were treated at Hoddesdon during the year.

Eight cases were treated at St. Michael's Clinic, Gordon Hill, Enfield, by arrangement with the Enfield Urban District Council during a short period that the Hoddesdon Treatment centre was not available owing to building operations.

The co-operation of the Hoddesdon and Enfield Councils in placing these facilities at the disposal of the Council is appreciated.

Mortuary.

The mortuary is situated in a Building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year eight bodies were received in the mortuary.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

During the year no action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of the Act, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. Two cases were brought to the notice of the department and both patients voluntarily agreed to go to suitable institutions.

SECTION 3.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES and SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Report of The Sanitary Inspector.

Water.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

All dwelling houses in the district are supplied from public mains direct to the houses with the exception of approximately twenty isolated cottages and out-lying farms where water is obtained from private sources.

In December the Minister of Health approved in principle the Council's scheme for the laying of water mains in Crouch Lane. There are eleven dwelling houses in this area at present served by four wells and the source of supply is in each case unsatisfactory.

Details of the reports on all samples of water taken during the year are shown in the table which follows. Samples Nos. 1 and 9, were taken on complaint and were of mains water supplied through storage tanks.

The supply at the C.W.S. Nursery, Waltham Cross, is from a deep well through storage tanks. Following the unsatisfactory report on sample No. 8, arrangements were made with the owners for a supply for drinking purposes to be taken direct from the rising main.

The supply at Theobalds Park is from a deep well and following the unsatisfactory report in June, the storage tanks were cleansed and chlorinated. The report on a sample taken after the work was completed was satisfactory.

Reports on Water Samples.

Date No.	Address	Plate Count		Coli per 100 ml.	Approx. proportions		Remarks
		3 days 22° C	2 days 37° C		Faecal Coli.	Non-faecal Coli	
24/1/49 1	44, Arlington Crescent, Waltham Cross—Bib Tab	2	—	—	—	—	Satisfactory
20/5/49 2	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Cheshunt—Deep well	6	—	—	—	—	Satisfactory
8/6/49 3	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Cheshunt—Deep well	16	—	—	Present in 50 ml.	—	Although not considered unwholesome it fails to comply with the high standard of bacterial purity that is desirable
25/6/49 4	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park, Cheshunt—Deep well	5	2	—	—	—	Satisfactory
31/10/49 5	C.W.S. Nursery, Park Lane, Waltham Cross—Bib cock on hot water supply in Canteen	13	2	—	—	—	Satisfactory
31/10/49 6	C.W.S. Nursery, Park Lane, Waltham Cross—Bib cock on cold water supply in Canteen	16	2	—	—	—	Satisfactory
11/11/49 7	C.W.S. Nursery, Park Lane, Waltham Cross—Bib cock on hot water supply in Canteen	12	9	—	—	—	Satisfactory
14/11/49 8	C.W.S. Nursery, Park Lane, Waltham Cross—Bib cock on cold water supply in Canteen	50	22	11	—	100	Unsatisfactory
21/11/49 9	9, Dewhurst Road, Cheshunt—Bib cock on cold water supply over sink	35	12	—	—	—	Satisfactory

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,555 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 370 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	208
Number of of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects	123
Number of premises other than houses inspected	500
Premises re-inspected (including housing) ...	497
Visits to works in progress (including housing)...	67
Miscellaneous Visits... ..	1160
	<hr/> 2555

Included in the above table are the following classified visits :—

Visits to schools	7
„ „ places of public entertainment	12
„ „ swimming bath	18
„ „ tents, vans and sheds	138
„ „ stables and piggeries	22
„ re overcrowding	6
„ „ Petroleum Acts	48
„ „ Shop Acts	5
„ „ collection and disposal of refuse & salvage	238
„ „ verminous premises disinfested... ..	3
„ „ infectious diseases... ..	37
„ „ disinfections	30
„ „ drain tests	4
„ „ smoke observations	1

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the report.

Housing Statistics.

Number of houses erected since 1945.

(1) By the L.A. (permanent) traditional (including flats)...	...	...	...	...	...	320
(2) By the L.A. (permanent) prefabricated	...					18
(3) By the L.A. (temporary) prefabricated	...					135
(4) By Private Enterprise...	...	...	...	...		162

Number of houses erected during 1949.

(1) By the L.A. (permanent) traditional (including flats)...	...	...	...	...	...	148
(2) By Private Enterprise...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	208
2. (b) Number of dwelling houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected or recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	74
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) by Owners	11*
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	6

(Note—* includes one outstanding from 1948)

Service of Notices.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance ...	7
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin	1
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	9
Statutory Notices under Section 89, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide sanitary conveniences	1
Statutory Notices under Section 56, Public Health Act, 1936, for drainage of yards and passages	1
Statutory Notices under Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring execution of Works of drainage, etc , in Existing Building	2
Statutory Notices under Section 24, Public Health Act, 1936, to owner of premises of proposed work of maintenance on Sewer	1

Statutory Notices to carry out works out- standing 31st December, 1948	...	...	4
Statutory Notices to carry out works out- standing 31st December, 1949	...	...	1
Statutory Notices to carry out work served during the year	...	.	13
Intimation Notices outstanding 31st December, 1948	...	...	45
Intimation Notices outstanding 31st December, 1949	...	...	44
Intimation Notices served during the year	...		172

In September proceedings were instituted for failure to comply with a notice requiring the abatement of a nuisance at 10, Blindmans Lane, and the Magistrates made an Order requiring compliance with the Notice within twenty eight days.

Inspection of Factories.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Number of written Notices.	Number of Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies :—				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	55	25	—	—
... ..				
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
... ..				
	64	27	—	—

There were three cases in which unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were found and remedied. One case of lack of cleanliness was referred to the Council by H.M. Inspector, and this was remedied.

There are no factories in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of 12 places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Twenty six inspections were made of out-workers premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, requires that every factory to which the Section applies should be certified by the District Council as being provided with such means of escape in case of fire for persons employed therein as may reasonably be required in the circumstances and it is the duty of the Council to examine every such factory and on being satisfied that the factory is so provided to give a certificate accordingly.

During the year certificates were issued as follows:—

Messrs Chadwick & Shapcott, Acorn Works, Waltham Cross.	26/1/49
Cheshunt Press, Flamstead End.	28/2/49
R. W. Webster & Co., Ltd. Abbey Iron Works, Waltham Cross.	23/3/49
Prospect Laundry, (Waltham Cross) Ltd.,	27/4/49

Swimming Bath.

There are no public baths or pools in the area. The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately owned, is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Tests for free chlorine are carried out with a Chlorotex indicator.

Ten samples were taken during the season, three for full chemical and bacteriological examination and seven for bacteriological examination only. In all cases the reports showed that, with regard to bacterial quality, the water was considered suitable for swimming bath purposes. Comment was made in all three full reports on the lack of clarity of the water. This impairs visibility especially at the deep end of the bath and is considered to be objectionable from the point of view of safety.

Moveable Dwellings.

The placing of unauthorised moveable dwellings in various parts of the district again gave rise to numerous complaints. Hurst Drive in particular was again used frequently as an encampment in the early part of the year, but the commencement of building operations on the site has put an end to its use for caravans.

To avoid the delay in these cases which is occasioned by having to report to the Committee and await confirmation by the Council, the Chairman was empowered to authorise the institution of proceedings against persons reported to be keeping moveable dwellings contrary to the provisions of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

Proceedings were instituted in May against Mr. S. W. Oliver, for placing his caravan on land in Crouch Lane, without the previous consent of the Council. A fine of £1 was imposed. The caravan was not removed however, and in June the Magistrates imposed a further fine of 50/- with a continuing penalty of 10/- a day. The caravan was then removed but was brought back to the site in July. A further summons was served and in the absence of the defendant the case was

twice adjourned and finally a warrant was issued for his arrest. Meanwhile the caravan had been removed from the site and was not brought back. The defendant was apprehended in November and was fined 10/- including costs.

Consents under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, were renewed in respect of thirty-one movable dwellings on the Willows Site, Waltham Cross, for a further period of twelve months. New consents in respect of five movable dwellings were granted for a similar period.

Infestation.

The steps taken to combat infestation have been the same as in previous years, namely, steam treatment of bedding and clothing, and the use of contact insecticides.

Hand sprayers and contact insecticides in small tins are available from the Public Health Department for purchase by householders for follow up treatment or for use where infestation is slight.

Rats and Mice.

As from the 1st April, 1949, the Council accepted delegation of the powers and duties of the County Council under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and it was decided to undertake treatment of infestation at private dwellings free of charge.

To provide the necessary organisation, a rodent operative was appointed, essential equipment and storage accommodation was obtained and an ex-government utility truck was acquired. The Rodent Operative attended a course of training arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in May.

As a consequence of the Council accepting

delegated powers formal direction was received from the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, requiring the Council to take such action as may be necessary to remedy infestation of land within their administrative area.

Five contracts held by the County Agricultural Executive Committee for rodent control work at a number of non-agricultural business premises in the area were transferred to the Council as from the 1st May, 1949.

The initial treatment of soil sewers was carried out in July and August. It was preceded by survey and preparation which included the mapping of all manholes and the loosening of manhole covers. Where there was no benching at the bottom of the inspection chambers special trays were fitted. In the first part of the treatment, prebaiting was carried out on two days followed by poison baiting on the third. About four weeks after the first treatment a second similar treatment was carried out with a different bait base and poison. Only those sections of sewers found to be infested in the first part of the treatment were dealt with in the second part.

Details of the initial treatment are shown in the table below :—

Treatment	Date Comm.	Total No. of M'holes	No. Baited	Average Pre-bait Takes			
				Complete Take	Partial Take	Total Take	No. Take
1. Initial	20.7.49	366	306	12	18	30	276
2. Initial	26.8.49	366	46	1	9	10	36

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A weekly collection of refuse is maintained by five Shelvoke and Drewry Chelsea Type Freighters and disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit. The existing tip is nearing completion and follow-

ing negotiations with the lessees arrangements have been made to reserve 3.813 acres of land lying immediately south of the road from Albury Farm to Albury Ride for the tipping of house refuse.

Details of salvage sales during the year together with the figures for 1948 were as follows:—

		1948 (to 31st December)						1949					
		Weight		Value					Weight		Value		
		T.	Cwts	£	s.	d.			T.	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
Paper ...	...	163	4½	1237	3	11			182	3½	1348	5	1
Pig Food ...	...	156	0	156	0	0			156	0	156	0	0
Gunny ...	...	1	4	3	0	0			—		—		
Rags ...	...	2	19½	37	11	6			4	4	89	16	0
Bottles and Jars		21	18½	191	0	3			14	16	66	0	10
Bones ...	...		7	2	1	0				2½		14	1
Cullet ...	...	2	15	4	16	3			1	5	2	3	9
Light Metal ...			3	1	17	2				5½	6	8	6
TOTALS		348	11½	£1633	10	1			358	16½	£1669	8	3

The cost of refuse collection and disposal for the year ended 31st March, 1949, after the income from salvage sales had been deducted, was as follows:—

Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	£5,851
Cost per 1000 of the population (21,210)	£275.86

Comparable figures for the year ending 31st March, 1948, were:—

Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	£5,445
Cost per 1000 of the population (21,080)	£258.79

Hazlegrove and Bramhall U.D.C. (population 19,320) in May, 1949, issued a tabulated summary of replies received from 48 authorities of comparable size on the subject of refuse collection costs.

The summary shows the average nett cost of refuse collection and disposal after the income from salvage has been deducted to be £320.8 per 1,000 population. The cost per 1,000 population for Cheshunt for the same period was £275 86.

The new waste paper collection allowance came into operation on the 1st January, 1949. It provided for a payment varying between 5/- and 20/- per ton on that part of the Council's collections which exceed 25% of the official target figure of 1 ton per 1,000 of the population per month.

In July, following a surplus of waste paper which resulted in many authorities being unable to dispose of their collections, the compulsory salvage obligations which had been imposed upon the Council were cancelled and the Orders relating to offences in connection with the destruction of waste paper and rags ceased to have effect.

The Council have a contract with Messrs Thames Board Mills until March, 1953, and no difficulty was experienced in disposing of all waste paper collected by the Council.

Tenders for the collection of kitchen waste from the communal street bins were invited by public advertisement and two tenders were received. The offer of the existing contractor was accepted. The bins are regularly cleansed at the contractors depot and spraying of the bins and bin stands with D.D.T. is undertaken during the summer months.

Refuse Dumps.

Sites previously excavated for gravel which are now being filled were kept under observation and dumping generally was carried out in a satisfactory manner and in accordance with the terms of the consents granted under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

One new consent was granted during the year to the Cheshunt Sand & Gravel Co., Ltd., in respect of a

site adjoining Cheshunt Railway Station. The consent was subject to detailed conditions agreed with the Hertfordshire County Council after a joint visit to the site with the County Health Inspector.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD

Milk and Dairies.

There are fifteen cowkeepers on the register, seven of whom produce Tuberculin Tested milk and three produce Accredited milk under licence from the County Council. Ten visits to cowsheds and forty to dairies and milk shops were made during the year.

Twenty one samples of milk from various retailers were taken during the year and all of these samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. 1936-46.

Primrose Dairy, Brookfield Lane, has for some time been operating as an approved plant for the heat treatment of milk. In June, following improvements to the premises and plant and after pre-licence samples of the milk treated in accordance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Orders had satisfied the prescribed test, the Council granted a Pasteuriser's Licence in respect of the plant.

Sampling of producers licensed by the County Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders is undertaken by Officers of the County Council. Copies of reports relating to forty eight samples taken from producers were received and thirty seven of these samples satisfied the prescribed test. Reports relating to eleven samples of school milk were received and these showed that all the samples were satisfactory.

New Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Consequent upon the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 and the Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949, the following new Regulations were made and came into operation on the 1st October, 1949,

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

These regulations re-enact with amendments the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1926 to 1943. The principal changes are that the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries becomes responsible for the registration of dairy farms and for the enforcement of the regulations on dairy farms.

The Council retains responsibility for those provisions which apply outside dairy farms, and for the registration of dairies which are not dairy farms and of dairyman who are not dairy farmers.

There are a number of minor changes in the regulations relating to buildings, the cleansing of vessels and utensils, and the distribution of milk and its protection against contamination and infection with disease and, in particular, provision is made for modern practices in dairying including the use of mechanical refrigeration for cooling and the use of approved chemical agents for the cleansing of appliances.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

These regulations re-enact with amendments the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1948, so far as they relate to raw milk. They provide that licences to producers of raw milk to use any special designation shall be granted by the Minister of Agricultural and Fisheries, while this Council will continue to grant licences to dealers to use special designations in respect of such milk.

After 1st October, 1954, the special designation "Accredited" will no longer be permitted to be used

and no new application to use that designation will be granted after 30th September, 1952.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

These regulations re-enact with amendments the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1948, so far as they relate to pasteurised milk and provide for a new special designation “sterilised milk”

Licences in respect of pasteurising and sterilising establishments will be issued by Food and Drugs authorities (the County Council) but this Council will continue to be responsible for all other licences. Fees for licences have been dispensed with.

Milk Licences.

Licences were granted during the year as follows :

Tuberculin Tested—Retailing Licence	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	...	...	2
Pasteurised—Dealer’s Retailing Licence	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	...	2
Pasteurised—Pasteuriser’s Licence	...	...	...	1
Sterilised—Dealer’s Retailing Licence	...	...	...	14
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	...	3

Meat and Other Foods.

During the year three hundred and fifty six visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	20
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	39
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	19
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	80
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	66
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	13
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	119

The following food stuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

Canned Goods of all descriptions			...	...	...	465 tins
Beef	...	16 lbs.	Dried Egg	...	...	17 lbs.
Beef Suet	...	8 lbs.	Plain Flour	...	...	162 lbs.
Kippers	...	56 lbs.	Self Raising Flour	...	...	102 lbs.
Skate Wings	...	70 lbs.	Cercoca	...	...	3 lbs.
Fish Paste	...	1 jar	Vermicelli	...	...	36 lbs.
Onions	...	16 cwts.	Scmolina	...	...	45 lbs.
Cheese	...	24½ lbs.	Biscuits	...	...	1 lb.
Margarine	...	24 lbs.	Chocolate Malt	...	...	12 doz.
Butter	...	17 lbs.	Bottled Fruit	...	...	42 jars
Cooking Fat	...	84 lbs.				

During the year a building formerly used as a slaughter house situated at the rear of 38, Crossbrook Street, was registered for the manufacture of sausages after improvements had been carried out.

There are no slaughterhouses in regular use in this district but two premises are used for the occasional slaughter of pigs.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	1	31
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	1	31
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.31

A complaint was received in November that a loaf purchased from a retail baker's shop was found when cut to contain a piece of extraneous material which on examination was found to be linen tape similar to that usually attached to an apron.

On enquiry at the shop concerned it was found that the loaf, which was a fruit loaf, had been baked on the premises and that it was the practice to prepare this kind of bread in small batches.

It is an offence to sell food intended for, but unfit for, human consumption; and it is an offence to sell to the prejudice of the purchaser any food which is not of the nature, or not of the substance, or not of the quality, of the food demanded by the purchaser.

After consideration of the details the Council instructed that a warning should be issued to the baker concerned.

In November the Council authorised the submission for the preliminary approval of the Minister of Food, of Byelaws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and in connection with the sale of food in the open air.

Cafes, Refreshment Houses and Coffee Stalls.

Notices served in April, 1947, requiring the provision of drainage and sanitary conveniences at the Station Approach Cafe and the Coffee Stall, 109 Eleanor Cross Road, were complied with during the year. Legal proceedings were still in progress at the end of the year to secure similar facilities at Theobalds Cafe. New statutory notices were served in respect of these premises in October.

At the Tea Cabin, Longfield Lane, drainage including a sink was provided. At the College Road Coffee Bar, drainage and W.C. accommodation was provided and at the River Side Cafe, provision of drainage and a cesspool was in hand at the end of the year. These three buildings are subject to temporary building licences.

Clean Food Campaign.

The British Tourist and Holidays Board in furtherance of its campaign for the maintenance of proper standards of cleanliness in the catering trade issued a series of plaques and posters calling attention to the need for hot water when washing up, for the destruction of flies and for guarding against infections from the body.

Every opportunity was taken to further the objects of this campaign by personal contact during visits of inspection to cafes and restaurant kitchens and the standard of food hygiene in these premises is generally good.

Ice Cream.

SAMPLING.

During the year thirty-two samples of ice cream were submitted for examination and details of the results are given in the following table:—

Sample No.	No. of Colonies per millilitre of Ice Cream growing on Agar at 37° C in 48 hours	Coliform Test Negative	Coliform Test Positive	Bact. Present in	Coli. Absent from	Meth. Blue Hours	Ministry of Health Grade
1	300,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	1	III
2	300	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4½	I
3	40,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4	II
4	6,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4½	I
5	250,000	—	0.01 ml	—	1.0 ml	½	III
6	300	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4½	I
7	8,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4½	I
8	10,000	0.1 ml	1.0 ml	—	1.0 ml	3½	II
9	7,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4½	I
10	2,700	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4½	I
11	1,700	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4	II
12	30,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	0	IV
13	120,000	—	0.01 ml	1.0 ml	0.1 ml	½	III
14	600	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4½	I
15	15,000	0.1 ml	1.0 ml	—	1.0 ml	4½	I
16	5,600	0.01 ml	0.1 ml	—	1.0 ml	4	II
17	25,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	3	II
18	27,000	—	0.01 ml	—	1.0 ml	1	III
19	30,000	—	0.01 ml	0.1 ml	0.01 ml	2	III
20	25,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	2½	II
21	6,000	0.01 ml	0.1 ml	—	1.0 ml	1½	III
22	400	0.1 ml	1.0 ml	—	1.0 ml	2½	II
23	250,000	—	0.01 ml	—	1.0 ml	0	IV
24	4,000	0.01 ml	0.1 ml	—	1.0 ml	1½	III
25	100,000	—	0.01 ml	—	1.0 ml	1	III
26	9,200	0.01 ml	0.1 ml	—	1.0 ml	2½	II
27	66,000	0.1 ml	1.0 ml	—	1.0 ml	3½	II
28	80,000	0.01 ml	0.1 ml	—	1.0 ml	1½	III
29	40,000	0.01 ml	0.1 ml	—	1.0 ml	1	III
30	120,000	—	0.01 ml	—	1.0 ml	2	III
31	7,000	0.01 ml	0.1 ml	—	1.0 ml	3	II
32	20,000	1.0 ml	—	—	1.0 ml	4½	I

Summary :—Grade I ... 9 samples.
Grade II ... 10 samples.
Grade III ... 11 samples.
Grade IV ... 2 samples.

These Grades are Ministry of Health Provisional Grades, and it is suggested that if, out of the four grades, ice cream consistently fails to reach Grades I and II it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture or handling which call for further investigation.

Of the thirteen samples placed in Grades III and IV six had less than 50,000 organisms per ml. at 37°C.

Where necessary, follow up action was taken with the retailer and with the local authority for the area in which the ice cream was produced.

The Public Health Laboratory at Hertford were again unable to accept samples of ice cream for examination owing to lack of essential equipment, and the examinations were carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

REGISTRATIONS.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, requires that premises used for the sale, storage or manufacture of ice cream must be registered by the local authority.

There were at the end of the year 5 premises on the register at which ice cream was manufactured and sold and 42 at which it was being stored and sold.

Adulteration of Food.

The Food and Drugs Inspector of the County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority, has kindly supplied the following particulars of samples taken in Cheshunt during the year:—

Article	No. Procured	No. Genuine	No. Not Genuine
Milk	16	16	—
Beef Sausage ...	2	2	—
Pork Sausage ...	1	—	1*
	—	—	—
	19	18	1

* This sample was 25% deficient in meat content.

Proceedings were instituted by the Ministry of Food against the vendor of the sample of Pork Sausages and he was subsequently fined £5 and ordered to pay costs (£4).

SECTION 4.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1948 and 1949:—

		1948	1949		
		Cases Notified	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	15	15	9	—
Measles	...	128	450	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	108	48	—	—
Pneumonia	...	13	20	1	9
Erysipelas	...	4	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	2	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	2	2	—
Dysentery	...	1	3	—	—

Tuberculosis—New Cases 1949.

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—5	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	2	2	1	6
15—25	—	4	1	1	6
25—35	3	—	—	—	3
35—45	2	1	—	2	5
45—55	1	1	—	—	2
55—65	—	—	—	1	1
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—
	7	8	3	5	23

A review of all notifications received during the last three years shows no evidence that the incidence of Tuberculosis is comparatively high in any particular part of the district.

The death rate from tuberculosis was 0.47 per 1000 of the population.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Disinfection.

Terminal disinfection of rooms and bedding is systematically carried out for scarlet fever and tuberculosis.

Special disinfection is done for cases of enteric or paratyphoid fevers, dysentery and poliomyelitis.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The incidence of measles followed the pattern of previous years in that a minor epidemic has occurred on alternate years.

Year	Cases notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1949	450	20.94
1948	128	6.04
1947	324	15.37
1946	59	2.91
1945	351	18.7
1944	14	0.75
1943	420	22.59
1942	38	2.04
1941	508	27.74
1940	60	3.24

The comparative incidence of whooping cough since 1940 is shown in the following table :—

Year	Cases notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1949	48	2.23
1948	108	5.09
1947	147	6.97
1946	53	2.61
1945	26	1.39
1944	172	9.19
1943	19	1.02
1942	116	6.23
1941	155	8.41
1940	9	0.44

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

There was one single case of food poisoning notified during 1949, the patient being a child six weeks old. The main symptoms were diarrhoea and the child was removed to hospital where *Salmonella* Newport was isolated. No evidence of suspected food was traced. The mother was stated to have had an attack of diarrhoea immediately before the child become ill. No other member of the household was affected. All members of the household were stated to have taken all their meals at home. The probable origin was not traced.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.
MANOR HOUSE,
CHESHUNT.

July, 1950.

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